

Illegal caste certificates to non-tribals

2812. SHRI A. V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of illegal caste certificates being issued to non-tribals to seek employment and other privileges like access to land under Forest Rights Act; and

(b) if so, the number of such cases registered and the remedial measures taken up by the Central and State Government in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) and (b) The responsibility for verification of social status and issuance of Scheduled Tribe certificate rests with the concerned State Government/UT Administration. Caste certificate Scrutiny Committee has to be constituted by the State Government, as per Supreme Court Guidelines. Besides, under Forest Rights Act, authorities responsible for verification of a claim made by an applicant are not required to ascertain the veracity of proof submitted with regard to the caste/tribe/social status of the claimant. Ministry of Tribal Affairs does receive complaints regarding caste certificates which are forwarded to the State Government /UT concerned.

Including indigenous communities of Sikkim in ST

2813. SHRI HISHEY LACHUNGPA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has received any demand for inclusion of various indigenous communities of Sikkim to be granted Tribal Status (Scheduled Tribe Status), if so, the details of the various communities to be included; and

(b) if not, the reasons and status thereof for the delay in taking a decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA): (a) The Government of Sikkim has recommended inclusion of 'Thami, Bahun, Chhetri, Sanyasi (Jogi), Newar, Kirat Khambu Rai, Kirat Dewan, Sunuwar, Gurung, Mangar and Bhujel' communities in the STs list in Sikkim.

(b) The Government of India, on 15-6-1999 and further amended on 25.6.2002, has laid down the modalities for determining the claims for inclusion in, exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying lists for Scheduled Tribes. According